

**HORLEY PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
16 NOVEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Chairman John Tite, Cllrs Martin Hamer, Simon Attfield, Duncan Raper, Graham Curd, Bob Barnwell. Clerk to the Council David Marriott. Also in attendance District Councillor Douglas Webb and County Councillor George Reynolds

Item		Action
1	Apologies for absence Councillor Jennifer Cross.	
2	Declarations of interests None	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2017. Proposed by Cllr Attfield, seconded by Cllr Barnwell it was resolved that the minutes be agreed.	Clerk
4	Matters arising None	
5	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) 2017/18 budget monitoring report The income and expenditure statement for the year to 30/9/17 was approved.</p> <p>b) Budget for 2018/19 Proposed by Cllr Raper, seconded by Cllr Hamer, it was resolved that the draft budget for 2018/19 be approved as set out, subject to the precept being retained at £6,750, and the sum allowed for contingencies being adjusted to balance. It was agreed that the substantial reserves held be the Council continue to be held to fund a future play park, and further kerbing works. It was noted that, as the cricket club's new pavilion scheme appears to be progressing, it would be appropriate to seek to move the play park scheme forward with the landowner, and it was agreed that Cllr Attfield would copy previous correspondence to the Clerk, so he can pursue this.</p> <p>c) Audit of accounts for 2016/17 Proposed by Cllr Tite, seconded by Cllr Attfield, it was resolved that the internal and external auditors' reports for the 2016/17 be received. It was noted that no issues had been raised in either audit report. It was noted that in future the Council would not be required to submit its accounts for external audit, and that, as a result, the Council's internal auditor be asked to provide a letter to confirm his opinion on the Council's accounts, and setting out any advice or recommendations. The Clerk was asked to check that the existing auditor Mr Rosier, is happy to continue on this basis.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Attfield</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6	<p>Land Adjoining the Old Council Houses, Wroxton Lane It was noted that little progress had been made as the Council is still waiting for advice from Oxfordshire County Council as to what might be possible to provide parking on this land. However, it was noted that a different County officer had assumed responsibility for this matter, and had agreed to seek to provide the advice required. It was agreed that the council should seek to put together a working party to clear the land again in January, and that the Clerk should progress this during December.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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7	<p>Planning report</p> <p>A table setting out the position on recent applications was noted. Cllr Tite reported on a recent meeting attended by Cllr Barnwell and the Clerk with Mr Hoddinott, the owner of the Old Forge in Wroxton Lane. Mr Hoddinott is intending to submit an application for change of use of the existing building to residential, so he can live on site for security purposes. No increase in the number of vehicles parked or stored on site is planned. It was noted that the Council has been consulted on an application by the cricket club to build a new pavilion, and it was agreed that a special meeting be held on 30 November to consider the Council's response to this.</p>	Clerk
8	<p>Applications for charitable donations</p> <p>It was noted that a request had been received from the Katherine House Hospice, and agreed that a donation of £50 be sent. It was noted that a request for a donation of £100 had been received from Clean Slate, a charity providing counselling and support to victims of abuse, and it was agreed that a donation of £25 be sent.</p>	Clerk
9	<p>Grass cutting Contract</p> <p>The work undertaken during the 2017 grass cutting season was considered to be at the correct level, and that work should be undertaken to the same specification next year. It was agreed that the contractor be asked to cut back the hedge on the south side of Hornton Lane, between Lane Close and the churchyard.</p>	Clerk
10	<p>Highways Matters</p> <p>The repairs recently undertaken by the County Council were noted, with further repairs to be carried out in Hornton Lane when a road closure has been obtained. It was reported that the County Council have provided a quote of £12,242 to provide conservation kerbs in Church Lane alongside the churchyard wall, in order to protect the verge. Proposed by Cllr Hamer, seconded by Cllr Barnwell, it was resolved that the Council ask the County Council to proceed with this work. The Clerk was requested to notify affected residents in Church Lane as to the proposed works.</p>	Clerk
11	<p>Disabled access to the church and the old school</p> <p>A report concerning the lack of wheelchair access to the church, affecting one of the access routes to the old school, was considered. The action being taken by the Parochial Church Council to address this was noted.</p>	
12	<p>Reports from external organisations</p> <p>Cllr Barnwell reported on an approach received from the scouts concerning problems with dog walkers using their site adjacent to the village. It was agreed that, if the scouts wish to follow up with a meeting, Cllrs Barnwell and Tite should see them, although there is little which the Council can do. It is acknowledged that the scout camp and former railway path are private land, with no public rights of way existing, but that the railway path is a popular route for residents and others.</p>	Cllr Barnwell
13	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 30 November 7.30 pm Thursday 1 February 7.30 pm</p>	All

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14	<p>Any other urgent business</p> <p>Councillor Barnwell enquired as to whether there was any information as to when the redundant telephone box will be removed, and the site reinstated. The telephone itself was removed some months previously. The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with BT, but whilst they had confirmed that a contract is in place to remove redundant kiosks, they were unable to give any indication as to when this one will be removed, and it might be some months before it is.</p>	
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MEETING CLOSED AT 9.00 pm